

Lesson 22: I Should Want a Relationship with God!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Discuss relationships and how important it is to have a relationship with God and find verses that talk about our need to have a relationship with Him.
- 2) Do activities that remind us of our need to be in contact with God such as a craft, questions, and verse search.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template from previous week)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Love the Lord Discover the Verse – one per child
- Love Lord Craft Page Template – one per child printed on cardstock or construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Yarn - one per child at 24 inch lengths
- Foam Balls (2 inches round) Two per child
- Sharpened pencils or wooden stick of same size – one per child

Optional:

- Plain Popcorn – enough to toss some as a game and then some for every child after activity
- Questions to give to a church member to answer for class
- Small Journal (from craft or dollar store) – one for each child preferably ones that are light colored so children can write the words (My Journal with God) on the front in marker.
- Markers
- How Does God See Me Word Search – one per child

Snack:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Marshmallows | enough so every child gets some |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

2 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Once children are seated say, “**Last week we learned another characteristic about God – can anyone raise their hand and tell me what we learned so far about God?** (Have children raise hands and answer – God is love, worthy of praise, faithful, fair and just, our provider, merciful, righteous, Holy, in control, is Spirit, and is personal.)

Last week we learned that God is personal, He wants a relationship with us. This week we are going to learn that we also should have a relationship with God by looking at verses from the Bible and studying them.

What is a RELATIONSHIP?

It is a particular type of connection existing between people. It involves communicating, interacting, and developing a connection to another person.

In relation to God, it involves wanting to develop a relationship with Him, through reading the Bible, praying, and worshipping Him and through when old enough, choosing to be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins and to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God in you to help you develop your relationship with God even further.

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

We are going to learn today, how and why we should have a relationship with God!

2) Bible Verse Questions

5-10 minutes

Say to students, let's turn in our Bibles and read John 10:2-5 and then I will ask you some questions.

Read John 10:2-5.

² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

What is the job of the Shepherd? (To know, protect, and lead *His sheep*.)

What is the job of the sheep? (To know the Shepherd's voice and follow Him.)

Why do the sheep follow the shepherd? (Because they know his voice; they know he's not a stranger.)

Why don't the sheep follow a stranger's voice? (Because they don't know if he is good or bad. They don't recognize his voice.)

How do we get to know God so that we can recognize His voice? (God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible)

If you ever "hear" something that is against what the Bible says, it is the voice of a stranger. Don't follow it!

To have a relationship with God means we recognize and want to follow His voice, we pray to Him, read the Bible, and go to church to understand God and to better our relationship with Him. And, when we do that, he will guide us, protect us and show us the way.

3) Optional - How does God Sees Me Word Search

10-15 minutes

Hand out one word search to each child along with a pencil. Read the instructions and words aloud so everyone knows what the words are they are searching for. Remind the children that these are some of the words God thinks about when He thinks of us, because He loves us and wants a relationship with us! So we should want a relationship with Him! Remind students that words can be found left, right, backwards, diagonal, up or down.

4) Optional: Being Close to God Popcorn Activity

10 minutes

Taken from KidsSundaySchool.com

Objective: Children will toss popcorn from different distances to see that the closer they are to God, the stronger their relationship can be with Him. Make sure you have some popcorn ready before class, preferably the natural kind with no flavors or oils to make it messy and sticky.

First, divide the children equally and have them stand in two lines, facing each other, about 10 feet apart. Each child will need to be facing another child. The children will be tossing a piece of popcorn back and forth to the person across from them. If you have an odd number of children, the extra child can count the number of successful catches or you can stand in to help. Give all the children in the first row, called "Row A", a piece of popcorn. Instruct the children that on your signal, they will toss the piece of popcorn 10 feet across the aisle to the person directly facing them in "Row B". Instruct the older children to use only one hand to toss or to catch the popcorn. Tell the kids that the popcorn in this activity represents our relationship with God. Give the signal and have the children toss the popcorn. Many of the tosses will fall short since the children are so far apart. Record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard.

Make sure each child in "Row B" has a piece of popcorn. Each child in "Row B" will take one-step towards "Row A." Then on your signal, have the children toss the popcorn again. Once again, record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard. Do this several more times, each time taking one-step closer until the two rows are together. Once together, the children can simply drop the popcorn into the hands of the other child, resulting in no misses. Explain that our relationship with God is similar to what we just did. The further away from each other, the harder it was to catch the popcorn. Likewise, the further we are from God, the harder it is to have a relationship with God. On the other hand, the closer we are to God, the easier it will be to have a strong relationship with Him. How do we get close to God? We can get closer to God by reading the Bible, praying, and going to church.

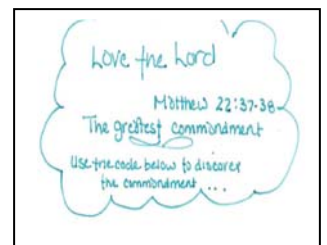
If doing optional snack, save clean popcorn for then, if not, hand out some popcorn to every child (that didn't fall on ground ☺) along with a napkin or cup to put the popcorn in, let them munch on it while the continue the next activity.

5) Love the Lord Discover the Verse Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out the code sheets and pencil crayons, and ask children to put their name on the front of the page. Read the instructions and then have the kids discover the verse from Matthew.

Part of having a relationship with God is learning to love Him more and more. We can do it when we put all our thoughts, actions, and words into it. The more we think about God and pray to Him and the more we act by reading His word the Bible and going to church, the more we will grow in our relationship with God.



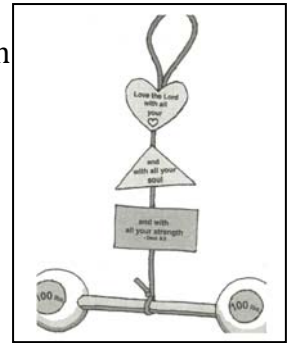
6) Craft – The Lord is my Strength Mobile

15 minutes

Before class, print copies of the template craft page from C.D.

Hand out one sheet per child along with scissors and crayon. Have the children read the Scripture on the shapes and then color and cut them out.

Then ask the children to push a sharpened pencil end into one foam ball (or if you purchased wooden sticks, put one end into a foam ball) and then put the other end into the other foam ball. Help each child tie one end of the yarn to the middle of the pencil. (As shown in picture.) Have them take the other end of the string and tie a loop to hang on something for later. (As shown in picture.)



Have children glue one side of the heart to the back side of the other with the string in the middle, do the same for the triangle shapes and the rectangle shapes, making sure the verse words are facing the front. Finally, glue the 100lbs circles to each of the foam balls to make a barbell. This mobile is to be hung somewhere to remind each child to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and strength!

7) Optional: Invite a guest to answer questions on an older church members relationship with God

10-15 minutes

Before class: Find a member of the church willing to be interviewed.

If you didn't have time last week, this option is being made available again in this weeks' lesson.

Do you know someone who has had a great relationship with God for a long time? Ask them to come to class and give the following answers to these questions. Tell them there may be other questions the children may want to ask as well. Give them the sheet on the C.D. marked questions for guest church member so they know in advance. Remind them this will happen during Bible class so make sure they are comfortable with that and are available.

When you are ready, invite them in or let them stay for the whole class to see "how it works" then have them sit in a place where all the children can see them. Ask each child to read one of the questions below to the guest and remind the children to sit quietly as they guest answers. Take turns for each child to ask a question. When done, see if the children have any other appropriate questions to ask. Allow if time and thank the guest for being a part of this special class time.

What is your relationship with God like?

How do you get to know God better every day?

What were some answers to prayer that have been amazing in your life?

What do you do when you feel far away from God?

8) Optional – Relationship with God Journal

15 minutes

Decorate a blank book or spiral notebook to use as a journal. Hand out one to each child along with markers and have them write the words, "My Journal with God" on the front. Make sure they write their names on the inside cover as well. Say to them:

Today I want you to use this journal to write a letter or list of reasons why you can thank God for your relationship with Him. It is your choice, if you are better at writing or if you would prefer drawing pictures or words to show your thankfulness to God. Then I want you to take this home and use it to keep track of things you should pray for, be thankful for, and answered prayers so that you can see your relationship with God grow. As well, you can

write down what chapters or verses you read in the Bible each day to remind yourself to study God's word.

Does anyone not have a Bible? If so, talk to the coordinator and ask them to purchase a bible for the children who do not have one, so they can study daily.

Help the children write down ideas if they need help. Encourage them if needed by asking kids to raise hands if they have an idea of something to be thankful for, to pray for, or a blessing they have received recently.

Once they have finished, have them clean up markers and put journals aside before moving onto next activity.

9) Optional - Snack : Marshmallow Sheep and/or Clean left over popcorn 5 minutes

Hand out a few marshmallows and/or popcorn from popcorn throw activity, along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that **this is to remind us about us being sheep. Sheep are white and fluffy just like marshmallows, but more importantly Jesus said He is the Shepherd and if we want to follow Him, we can and He will guide us and protect us! As well, just like the popcorn was easier to throw when it is closer, so it is easier for us to have a relationship with God when we stay close to Him!** Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how we could have a relationship with God and Jesus while snacking!

10) Optional - Songs 5 minutes

Jesus is My Best Friend

My Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend
I am not alone.

My Rock, Jesus is my Rock, Jesus is my Rock
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My Rock, Jesus is my Rock, Jesus is my Rock
I am not alone.

My Comforter, Jesus is my Comforter, Jesus is my Comforter
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My Comforter, Jesus is my Comforter, Jesus is my Comforter
I am not alone.

My Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend, Jesus is my Best Friend
I am not alone.

I Will Call Upon the Lord

I Will Call upon The LORD
Who Is Worthy to Be Praised
So Shall I Be Safe from My Enemies

The LORD Liveth
And Blessed Be My Rock
And Let The GOD Of My Salvation be Exalted (REPEAT)

11) Close in prayer

Thank you God that You have shown us again in the Bible what You want from us and that Your will for us is good. We pray that You will help us to know and understand how to have a relationship with You and how wonderful and important it is! We pray we do it properly so that it brings joy to You and is pleasing to You. We pray that we will always want to have a personal relationship with You. We pray also that we can help others learn about You as we grow. We pray for our families, friends, pets, health, and ourselves. We pray You will help us, guide us, and help anyone who is sick today and unable to make it to church. Be with us and help us to always study your word, and it is in Jesus' name that we pray this, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!